

The Book of Philippians

Lesson 7

Study Notes

A Pattern of the Christian Life

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Text: Philippians 2:12-16.

Introduction: One thing we learn about Paul's writings is that he always relates; _____ and duty, creed and _____, and faith and _____. Previously in the chapter we have seen the mind of Christ and His example, he now exhorts the Philippians believers to make an earnest endeavor towards spiritual progress in their lives. The example of Christ calls for daily expressions of our _____, _____ and _____.

In this text we will see the responsibility of every Christian to "work out" what God has "_____ " us. We will see the importance of cooperation and consistency in the outworking of our salvation. And to acknowledge our common purpose in life, sharing the light of the gospel with the world. When Paul urged the Philippians to take Christ as their example and follow in His steps, he was speaking to _____ . The ones to whom he is writing has already trusted Christ as their Savior. It is impossible for an unsaved person to copy Christ and follow in His steps. One must experience the miracle of God's grace and the power of the shed blood before he can follow the steps of Jesus.

I. The Christian's Walk is to Obey.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

The word "Wherefore" refers to the example we have in Christ. His humility to _____ us and the exaltation of Christ to _____ us. Christ lived out His life in humble obedience and as a result lived in ultimate _____.

Paul exhorts the Philippians to _____. What was apparent was their obedience in Paul's presence; it is one thing when it is done in the presence of others, but real obedience is what is done in the absence of others. When obedience is done before others only because of the fear of what others may think, or to live up to others expectation really only equates to "eye service."

Colossians 3:22-23 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Proper obedience is done to _____, and remains faithful no matter what others may think. There is always a tendency to relax obedience when the spiritual leader is absent, but the Philippians obeyed "much more" in Paul's absence; a good sign of their true conversion in Christ.

II. The Christian's Working Out What is Worked Within Us.

A. *The work that is within us.*

Ephesians 2:8-10 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

For we are His workmanship, that is we are “_____ or _____” by him, not only in the general sense in which all things are made by him, but in that special sense which is denoted by the new creation we have in salvation.

B. *The work that is to work out of us.*

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

The meaning of “work out” is to thoroughly _____ or to carry out to and ultimate conclusion. Christians have gold in their lives given us in salvation, it’s already there it just needs to be mined out.

2Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Our salvation is worked in by the Holy Spirit in answer to faith in God’s promises and it is worked out by the Holy Spirit by our obedience to God’s _____. We are not working for our salvation; we are working because of our salvation. It is always a matter of trust and obey. It is not a matter of the imitation of Christ but the manifestation of Christ, the Holy Spirit reproducing the life of Christ in and through the believer.

Each individual has his “own salvation” it is a personal relationship with Christ. Salvation can be viewed in three tenses: past, _____; present, _____; future, _____.

C. *The work “with fear and trembling.”*

This means humble obedience, the fear of self-trust, the tenderness of conscious, it is a vigilance against _____. The need to shrink from whatever would offend and dishonor God and the Savior.

The idea here is that of the anxiety of the person who distrusts his own ability to meet all the requirements that are expected of him, but does his best to discharge his duty. There is a place for the right kind of fear in the life of the Christian.

1. The “fear of the Lord” is the beginning of _____. Proverbs 1:7.
2. The “fear of the Lord” will cause one to _____. Proverbs 8:13.
3. The “fear of the Lord” will _____ life. Proverbs 10:27.
4. The “fear of the Lord” provides strong confidence and is a _____. Proverbs 14:26-27.
5. The “fear of the Lord” prompts one to _____ from evil. Proverbs 16:6.
6. The “fear of the Lord” leads to a satisfying life, and spares one from much evil. Proverbs 19:23.
7. The “fear of the Lord” is the way to riches, _____, and _____. Proverbs 22:4.

Philippians 2:13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

D. The work of God in us to do His will.

We are not alone in our efforts to serve God; He is always there to help us along.

A. T. Roberson says; "Paul makes no attempt to reconcile divine sovereignty and human free agency, but boldly proclaims both."

At our conversion, God begins a new work in us, and He intends to complete it. I'm am reminded of what Paul said in chapter one.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

So, through His indwelling Spirit, He gives us whatever strength we need, and whatever we may become in the Lord, it is by His _____.

1Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Knowing that God is at work in us, ought to provide us with further motivation to work out our salvation.

III. The Christian's Walk Before the World.

Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

A. Be without murmurings and disputings.

"Murmurings" are the undertones of dissatisfaction; hidden dissatisfaction; half-concealed, half uttered complaints; _____.

"Disputing's" are the overtones of dissension. Disputings refer to the thinking of a man deliberating with himself, rationalizing and calculating. It was these two sins that prevented Israel from entering the Land of Canaan.

1Corinthians 10:10-12 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

B. Be Blameless and Harmless and without rebuke.

Three words here describe the quality of consistent Christian living.

1. "Blameless" means freedom from censure. This refers to _____ conduct, and presents the idea of a person in whom no grace is defective.

2. "Harmless" this word means sincere, unmixed, pure, unadulterated. It describes the saint with not one thing in his _____ or _____ which ought not to be there.

3. "Without rebuke" means spotless, without blemish, in reputation and reality. Without defect.

Note: Christians are to stand in such contrast to the appearance of this world; which is a crooked and perverse nation. This world is a distorted and twisted society and stands opposite of what is right and good.

C. Be a shining light.

"Whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

1. We shine as lights when we live without fault before the world.
2. We shine as lights when we live in the midst of the crooked and perverse nation.
3. We shine as lights when we hold forth the Word of Life.

Philippians 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.